

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-05 IO-11 SCCT-01 OMB-01

AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 AF-06

SAM-01 SAB-01 /120 W

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R 101130Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0806

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS CAIRO 3126

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, LY

SUBJECT: CONTINUING PRESS COVERAGE OF LIBYAN MACHINATIONS IN EGYPT

REF: CAIRO 3104

1. LOCAL DAILIES MARCH 10 CONTINUE COVERAGE OF LIBYAN ATTEMPTS TO FORCE RETURN OF FUGITIVE RCC MEMBERS MUHAYSHI AND AL-HUNI, ALTHOUGH TREATMENT OF AFFAIR HAS BECOME CONSIDERABLY MORE LOW KEY. ONLY AKHBAR CONTINUES BANNER-HEADLINE TREATMENT OF LIBYAN MACHINATIONS IN EGYPT, REPORTING THAT SEVEN LIBYAN DETAINEES (DETAILS REFTEL) CARRIED LISTS OF PROMINENT EGYPTIAN PERSONALITIES TO BE ASSINATED AND OF LOCATIONS FOR FUTURE SABOTAGE ACTIVITIES. ALL PAPERS REPORT LIBYAN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THREE KIDNAPPERS DETAINED IN ROME BY OFFERING ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AN EXCHANGE OF TWO ITALIANS DETAINED IN TRIPOLI (ON ESPIONAGE CHARGES OF SPYING FOR ISRAEL) IN RETURN FOR LIBYANS INVOLVED IN ABORTIVE

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ATTEMPT AGAINST AL-HUNI. DAILIES ALSO REPORT THAT QADHAFI

HAS CRITICIZED EGYPTIAN INTERROGATION OF TUNISIAN EX-FONMIN
MASMUDI, QUOTING COMMENT OF RCC CHAIRMAN THAT TUNISIAN HAD NO
RELATION WHATSOEVER TO GDSSI INVESTIGATIONS OF LIBYANS
ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTING TO COERCE MUHAYSHI AND AL-HUNI TO RETURN
TO LIBYA.

2. COMMENT: EXCEPT FOR CONTINUING SPLASHY TREATMENT IN
AKHBAR, LOW-KEY TONE IN OTHER CAIRO DAILIES CONCERNING
LIBYAN CASE WOULD APPEAR TO INDICATE THAT EGYPTIAN PRESS
RELUCTANT AT PRESENT TO ESCALATE ANTI-LIBYAN CAMPAIGN BEYOND
COVERAGE OF CASE INVOLVING MUHAYSHI AND AL-HUNI AND LIBYANS
ALREADY DETAINED AND UNDER INVESTIGATION. DAILIES HAVE
ALREADY MILKED MOST OF LURIS DETAILS OF AL-HUNI/MUHAYSHI
CASE DRY AND ANY CONTINUING ANTI-LIBYAN EGYPTIAN PRESS
CAMPAIGN WOULD HAVE TO DRAW ON MORE POLITICAL MATERIAL THAN
TIDBITS CONTINUING GDSSI INVESTIGATION LIKELY TO PRODUCE.
MAESTRONE

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